BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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)	Case No. 8002016019999
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DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on November 9, 2017.

IT IS SO ORDERED: October 13, 2017.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Jamie Wright, J.D., Chair

Panel A

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1.	XAVIER BECERRA			
2	Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO			
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General BRIAN D. BILL			
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 239146			
5	California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702			
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-9474			
ŀ	Facsimile: (213) 897-9395			
7	Attorneys for Complainant			
8	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA			
9	DÉPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2016-019999		
12	JORGE E. GALINDO, M.D. 15115 Amar Road	OAH No. 2016070488		
13	La Puente, CA 91744	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND		
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C39465,	DISCIPLINARY ORDER		
15	Respondent.			
16	Respondent.			
17	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-			
18	entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:			
19	<u>PARTIES</u>			
20	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board			
21	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in			
22	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Brian D. Bill,			
23	Deputy Attorney General.			
24	2. Respondent JORGE E. GALINDO, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this			
25	proceeding by attorney Richard V. Zavala, Esq., whose address is: 3105 Sedona Court			
26	Ontario, CA 91764			
27	3. On or about October 6, 1980, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate			
28	No. C39465 to JORGE E. GALINDO, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's			
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Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2016-019999, and will expire on May 31, 2016, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

- 4. Accusation No. 800-2016-019999 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on May 13, 2016. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2016-019999 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2016-019999. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent understands and agrees that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2016-019999, if proven at a hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 10. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual

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basis for the charges in the Accusation, and that Respondent hereby gives up his right to contest those charges.

11. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's probationary terms as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

RESERVATION

12. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

- 13. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 14. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 15. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

17.

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C39465 issued to Respondent JORGE E. GALINDO, M.D. is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

1. PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 1358.1. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

2. <u>NOTIFICATION</u>. Within seven (7) days of the effective date of this Decision, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of this Decision and Accusation to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to

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Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 3. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS AND ADVANCED PRACTICE</u>

 <u>NURSES.</u> During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.
- 4. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u>. Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments, and other orders.
- 5. <u>QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS</u>. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.

Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

6. GENERAL PROBATION REQUIREMENTS.

Compliance with Probation Unit

Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation unit.

Address Changes

Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses, email address (if available), and telephone number. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Place of Practice

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's or patient's place of residence, unless the patient resides in a skilled nursing facility or other similar licensed facility.

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11.

License Renewal

Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

Travel or Residence Outside California

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than thirty (30) calendar days.

In the event Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice,
Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of
departure and return.

- 7. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u>. Respondent shall be available in person upon request for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 8. NON-PRACTICE WHILE ON PROBATION. Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 15 calendar days of any periods of non-practice lasting more than 30 calendar days and within 15 calendar days of Respondent's return to practice. Non-practice is defined as any period of time Respondent is not practicing medicine as defined in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052 for at least 40 hours in a calendar month in direct patient care, clinical activity or teaching, or other activity as approved by the Board. If Respondent resides in California and is considered to be in non-practice, Respondent shall comply with all terms and conditions of probation. All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall not be considered non-practice and does not relieve Respondent from complying with all the terms and conditions of probation. Practicing medicine in another state of the United States or Federal jurisdiction while on probation with the medical licensing authority of that state or jurisdiction shall not be considered non-practice. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice.

In the event Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation exceeds 18 calendar

months, Respondent shall successfully complete the Federation of State Medical Boards's Special Purpose Examination, or, at the Board's discretion, a clinical competence assessment program that meets the criteria of Condition 18 of the current version of the Board's "Manual of Model Disciplinary Orders and Disciplinary Guidelines" prior to resuming the practice of medicine.

Respondent's period of non-practice while on probation shall not exceed two (2) years. Periods of non-practice will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term.

Periods of non-practice for a Respondent residing outside of California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; General Probation Requirements; and Quarterly Declarations.

- 9. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u>. Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 10. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u>. Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, or Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 11. <u>LICENSE SURRENDER</u>. Following the effective date of this Decision, if
 Respondent ceases practicing due to retirement or health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy
 the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his or her license.
 The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion in
 determining whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate
 and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, Respondent
 shall within 15 calendar days deliver Respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Board or its

ENDORSEMENT The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California. Dated: 8-2-17

Respectfully submitted,

XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General

BRIAN D. BILL Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2016-019999

1 2	Kamala D. Harris Attorney General of California JUDITH T. ALVARADO	FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO May 13 20 16	
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General TAN N. TRAN	BY K. Voong ANALYST	
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 197775		
	California Department of Justice		
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013		
6	Telephone: (213) 897-6793 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
9	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10] .	
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2016-019999	
12	Jorge E. Galindo, M.D. 15115 Amar Road	ACCUSATION	
13	La Puente, CA 91744		
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C39465,		
15	Respondent.		
16	respondent.		
17	Complainant alleges:		
18		TIES	
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21	capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer		
22	Affairs (Board).		
23	2. On or about October 6, 1980, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's		
24	Certificate Number C39465 to Jorge E. Galindo, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and		
25	Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought		
26	herein and will expire on May 31, 2016, unless renewed.		
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28	///		
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(JORGE E. GALINDO, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2016-019999

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
 - 4. Section 2004 of the Code states:
 - "The board shall have the responsibility for the following:
- "(a) The enforcement of the disciplinary and criminal provisions of the Medical Practice Act.
 - "(b) The administration and hearing of disciplinary actions.
- "(c) Carrying out disciplinary actions appropriate to findings made by a panel or an administrative law judge.
- "(d) Suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting certificates after the conclusion of disciplinary actions.
- "(e) Reviewing the quality of medical practice carried out by physician and surgeon certificate holders under the jurisdiction of the board.
 - "(f) Approving undergraduate and graduate medical education programs.
- "(g) Approving clinical clerkship and special programs and hospitals for the programs in subdivision (f).
 - "(h) Issuing licenses and certificates under the board's jurisdiction.
 - "(i) Administering the board's continuing medical education program."
- 5. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the board deems proper.
 - 6. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
 - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
 - "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.
- "(g) The practice of medicine from this state into another state or country without meeting the legal requirements of that state or country for the practice of medicine. Section 2314 shall not apply to this subdivision. This subdivision shall become operative upon the implementation of the proposed registration program described in Section 2052.5.
- "(h) The repeated failure by a certificate holder, in the absence of good cause, to attend and participate in an interview scheduled by Board. This subdivision shall only apply to a certificate holder who is the subject of an investigation by the board."
 - 7. Section 2242 of the Code states:
- "(a) Prescribing, dispensing, or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined in Section 4022 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, constitutes unprofessional conduct.

- "(b) No licensee shall be found to have committed unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this section if, at the time the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished, any of the following applies:
- "(1) The licensee was a designated physician and surgeon or podiatrist serving in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and if the drugs were prescribed, dispensed, or furnished only as necessary to maintain the patient until the return of his or her practitioner, but in any case no longer than 72 hours.
- "(2) The licensee transmitted the order for the drugs to a registered nurse or to a licensed vocational nurse in an inpatient facility, and if both of the following conditions exist:
- "(A) The practitioner had consulted with the registered nurse or licensed vocational nurse who had reviewed the patient's records.
- "(B) The practitioner was designated as the practitioner to serve in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be.
- "(3) The licensee was a designated practitioner serving in the absence of the patient's physician and surgeon or podiatrist, as the case may be, and was in possession of or had utilized the patient's records and ordered the renewal of a medically indicated prescription for an amount not exceeding the original prescription in strength or amount or for more than one refill.
- "(4) The licensee was acting in accordance with Section 120582 of the Health and Safety Code."
- 8. Section 2266 of the Code states: "The failure of a physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct."
 - 9. Section 725 of the Code states:
- "(a) Repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or administering of drugs or treatment, repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic procedures, or repeated acts of clearly excessive use of diagnostic or treatment facilities as determined by the standard of the community of licensees is unprofessional conduct for a physician and surgeon, dentist,

podiatrist, psychologist, physical therapist, chiropractor, optometrist, speech-language pathologist, or audiologist.

- "(b) Any person who engages in repeated acts of clearly excessive prescribing or administering of drugs or treatment is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) nor more than six hundred dollars (\$600), or by imprisonment for a term of not less than 60 days nor more than 180 days, or by both that fine and imprisonment.
- "(c) A practitioner who has a medical basis for prescribing, furnishing, dispensing, or administering dangerous drugs or prescription controlled substances shall not be subject to disciplinary action or prosecution under this section.
- "(d) No physician and surgeon shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to this section for treating intractable pain in compliance with Section 2241.5."
 - 10. Section 2051 of the Code states:

"The physician's and surgeon's certificate authorizes the holder to use drugs or devices in or upon human beings and to sever or penetrate the tissue of human beings and to use any and all other methods in the treatment of diseases, injuries, deformities, and other physical and mental conditions."

- 11. Section 2052 of the Code states:
- "(a) Notwithstanding Section 146, any person who practices or attempts to practice, or who advertises or holds himself or herself out as practicing, any system or mode of treating the sick or afflicted in this state, or who diagnoses, treats, operates for, or prescribes for any ailment, blemish, deformity, disease, disfigurement, disorder, injury, or other physical or mental condition of any person, without having at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked, or unsuspended certificate as provided in this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act], or without being authorized to perform the act pursuant to a certificate obtained in accordance with some other provision of law, is guilty of a public offense, punishable by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), by imprisonment pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 1170 of the Penal Code, by imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding one year, or by both the fine and either

imprisonment.

- "(b) Any person who conspires with or aids or abets another to commit any act described in subdivision (a) is guilty of a public offense, subject to the punishment described in that subdivision.
- "(c) The remedy provided in this section shall not preclude any other remedy provided by law."
 - 12. Section 2241 of the Code states:
- "(a) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription drugs, including prescription controlled substances, to an addict under his or her treatment for a purpose other than maintenance on, or detoxification from, prescription drugs or controlled substances.
- "(b) A physician and surgeon may prescribe, dispense, or administer prescription drugs or prescription controlled substances to an addict for purposes of maintenance on, or detoxification from, prescription drugs or controlled substances only as set forth in subdivision (c) or in Sections 11215, 11217, 11217.5, 11218, 11219, and 11220 of the Health and Safety Code. Nothing in this subdivision shall authorize a physician and surgeon to prescribe, dispense, or administer dangerous drugs or controlled substances to a person he or she knows or reasonably believes is using or will use the drugs or substances for a nonmedical purpose.
- "(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), prescription drugs or controlled substances may also be administered or applied by a physician and surgeon, or by a registered nurse acting under his or her instruction and supervision, under the following circumstances:
- "(1) Emergency treatment of a patient whose addiction is complicated by the presence of incurable disease, acute accident, illness, or injury, or the infirmities attendant upon age.
- "(2) Treatment of addicts in state-licensed institutions where the patient is kept under restraint and control, or in city or county jails or state prisons.
- "(3) Treatment of addicts as provided for by Section 11217.5 of the Health and Safety Code.
- "(d)(1) For purposes of this section and Section 2241.5, "addict" means a person whose actions are characterized by craving in combination with one or more of the following:

- "(A) Impaired control over drug use.
- "(B) Compulsive use.
- "(C) Continued use despite harm.
- "(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a person whose drug-seeking behavior is primarily due to the inadequate control of pain is not an addict within the meaning of this section or Section 2241.5."

13. Section 2264 of the Code states:

"The employing, directly or indirectly, the aiding, or the abetting of any unlicensed person or any suspended, revoked, or unlicensed practitioner to engage in the practice of medicine or any other mode of treating the sick or afflicted which requires a license to practice constitutes unprofessional conduct."

14. Section 2286 of the Code states:

"It shall constitute unprofessional conduct for any licensee to violate, to attempt to violate, directly or indirectly, to assist in or abet the violation of, or to conspire to violate any provision or term of Article 18 (commenting with Section 2400), of the Moscone-Knox Professional Corporation Act (Part 4 commencing with Section 13400) of Division 3 of Title 1 of the Corporations Code), or of any rules and regulations duly adopted under those laws."

15. Section 2400 of the Code states:

"Corporations and other artificial legal entities shall have no professional rights, privileges, or powers. However, the Division of Licensing may in its discretion, after such investigation and review of such documentary evidence as it may require, and under regulations adopted by it, grant approval of the employment of licensees on a salary basis by licensed charitable institutions, foundations or clinics, if no charge for professional services rendered patients is made by any such institution, foundation, or clinic."

- 16. Section 3502.1 of the Code states in pertinent part:
- "(a) (1) A supervising physician and surgeon who delegates authority to issue a drug order to a physician assistant may limit this authority by specifying the manner in which the physician assistant may issue delegated prescriptions."

"(2) Each supervising physician and surgeon who delegates the authority to issue a drug order to a physician assistant shall first prepare and adopt, or adopt, a written, practice specific, formulary and protocols that specify all criteria for the use of a particular drug or device, and any contraindications for the selection..."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Administration of Medication by Physician Assistant-Lack of Supervision- 3 patients)

17. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 3502.1, subdivision (a) (1) (2), of the Code for failing to adequately supervise physician assistant Andrew Sajo's care and treatment of patients L.M., G.W., and S.F.¹ The circumstances are as follows:

Patient L.M.

- 18. Patient L.M. (or "patient") is a fifty-seven- year-old female who treated at Perez Medical Clinic (clinic) from about May 2012 through December 2014.² The clinic is owned and managed by Yo. P., a layperson with no medical training. Yo. P. is in charge of hiring and employment issues and billing at the clinic. Yo. P. hired Respondent to be one of the patient's primary treating doctor at the clinic,³ and Respondent was designated as one of the supervising physicians for physician assistant (PA) Andrew Sajo, who was also hired by Yo. P.
- 19. Records indicate that from June 2012 to November 2013, approximately thirty prescriptions were written to L.M., including Hydrocodone and Alprazolam,⁴ which were filled nearly monthly. Most of these prescriptions were written by Andrew Sajo, and a few were refilled by Respondent.⁵

and/or overused.

The patients are identified by initial to protect their privacy.

These are only approximate dates, per the progress notes which were available for review. This patient may have treated at this clinic with other individuals prior to and after these dates. Most of the visits after June 2012 were with P.A. Sajo, and a few were with Respondent. It should also be noted that there is no documentation in the progress notes that P.A. Sajo ever discussed the patient's prescriptions or any other aspects of care of the patient with a supervising physician.

At one point, Respondent was also acting as the "Medical Director" of the clinic.

Dangerous drugs with potentially addictive traits and side effects, if used improperly

⁵ Respondent stated at a Board interview, that during the few times that this patient was seen by Respondent, he was merely refilling the medications because another doctor/PA had prescribed them before.

20. Patient G.W. (or "patient") is a sixty-five-year-old male who treated at Perez Medical Clinic (clinic) from about October 2012 through December 2014. Records indicate that from June 2012 to November 2013, approximately thirty prescriptions were written for the patient including Hydrocodone, Carisoprodol (Soma), Clonazepam (Klonopin), Diazepam, and Lorazepam.

Patient S.F.

- 21. Patient S.F. (S.F. or "patient"), who was an undercover Board investigator, was treated by P.A. Andrew Sajo at the clinic on October 14, 2014. On said date, after a brief evaluation, P.A. Sajo wrote S.F. a prescription for Norco and Lisinopril, after S.F. claimed that he needed pain medication (specifically Norco) as a result of exercise.
- 22. During said time periods, when the above patients were receiving prescriptions for controlled substances, the patients were either treated by P.A. Sajo or Respondent, both of whom generally worked on separate days, when the other was absent.
- 23. Respondent departed from the standard of care in failing to adequately supervise P.A. Andrew Sajo as follows:
- (a) In reviewing the progress notes for said patients, there is no evidence that Respondent or any other physician was supervising PA Andrew Sajo.
- (b) Never once is there documentation of a discussion with PA Sajo regarding the patients' prescriptions, or any other aspects of the "care" given.
 - (c) There were no specific protocols or formularies for PA Sajo to follow.

Dangerous drugs with potentially addictive traits and side effects, if used improperly and/or overused.

⁶ These are only approximate dates, per the progress notes which were available for review. This patient may have treated at this clinic with other individuals prior to and after these dates. Per the records, from November 2012 through December 2014, both Respondent and P.A. Sajo treated this patient at the clinic. It should also be noted that there is no documentation in the progress notes that P.A. Sajo ever discussed the patient's prescriptions or any other aspects of care of the patient with a supervising physician.

was a drug addict, having been in a Methadone Clinic.